

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

news release

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SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR WATERFOWL HUNTERS, INTERIOR REPORTS

The nation's waterfowl hunters are having an unusually successful year, the Interior Department reported today, as seasons in many States were approximately at half-way marks.

"Liberalized regulations issued by the Federal Government are proving justified because larger duck populations are moving down the flyways," said Assistant Secretary Leslie L. Glasgow, who heads Interior's programs for fish, wildlife, parks, and marine resources.

The Assistant Secretary said that each year the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife faces the challenge of setting regulations which are fair to hunters, yet insure an adequate supply of breeders returning to northern nesting grounds.

Habitat conditions, surveyed by the Bureau last summer, were reported the best in recent years and nesting waterfowl responded with increased production.

Now evidence in the form of wing receipts is reaching the Bureau that last summer's duck production in the prairie pothole States and Canada is contributing additional ducks in the sportsman's bag.

Each year since 1961 the Bureau has mailed envelopes to a representative sample of hunters, who are asked to return a wing from each duck they shoot. The survey is designed to indicate the age, sex, and species composition of the waterfowl harvest, but it also generally reflects the magnitude of the kill.

One exception to the overall trend is in the Atlantic flyway, where about the same number of wing receipts as last year have been received.

Receipts through mid-November, however, are indicating a substantial increase in the Mississippi flyway harvest and more moderate increases in the Central and Pacific flyways.

Dr. Glasgow said that additional data will be compiled as the season progresses, but "right now it looks like a great year to be a waterfowl hunter."